by the BIFR provide for any relief/concession from this Ministry, the scheme is considered as per the existing guidelines.

As regards the cooperative sugar mills a Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food & Public Distribution) to consider the proposals of the potentially viable sick mills of this sector.

The Central Government has provided a loan of Rs. 20.89 crores to 3 sick mills for modernization and rehabilitation.

Replacement of products under warranty

2085. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in the name of 'Warranty' the manufacturers offer only services of repairing of a bad product even if it is very new;

(b) whether Government would make it compulsory to replace the product within a certain time, if the product is found to be a faulty piece; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interest of consumers in this age of growing consumerism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Task force on Tigers in Sariska

2086. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force appointed by Government to study the tiger crisis in Sariska forest in Rajasthan has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Task Force appointed as per the recommendations of the National Board for Wildlife under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister for reviewing the management of tiger reserves in the country has submitted its report.

(b) Main recommendations of the Task Force are at Statement (*See* below)

(c) Actions have already been agreed on urgent measures as recommended by the Task Force.

Statement

Recommendations of Task Force on Tigers in Sariska

The urgent recommendations of the Task Force are follows:

1. Request the Prime Minister to head the Steering Committee of Project Tiger for a period of 2-3 years.
2. The Project Tiger Directorate to be converted into a statutory authority under the Ministry of Environment & Forests. This will give it greater autonomy and ability to coordinate with state governments.
3. The Wildlife Crime Bureau to be created immediately under the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
4. The next census (planned for November) of tigers and habitat to be done using the new methodology, suggested by Ministry of Environment & Forests and endorsed by the Tiger Task Force. Independent audit report also be to presented to Parliament in 6 months, which will rate state performance on different criteria.
5. The plan for relocation of villages from key tiger habitats to be finalized within one year, with its financial and logistical implications and completed with 2-3 years.
6. The plan for co-existence to be prepared by each tiger reserve within one year so that benefits of conservation can be shared with local communities.

7. The benefits of tourisms to be shared with local communities using the recommendations of the Task Force.

Project of Cloning Cheeta

2087. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the project of cloning Cheeta in India has suffered a setback following the refusal of Iran to give India two Cheeta as requested; and

(b) if so, what alternate options are being explored to re-introduce the extinct Cheeta in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has not initiated the project of cloning of Cheetah, nor has made any request to Iran for giving two Cheetahs for the project. And therefore the question of refusal of Iran to give India two Cheetahs does not arise.

A proposal to resurrect the Indian Cheetah by cloning has been prepared by the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology, (CCMB), Hyderabad. The Ministry of Environment & Forests had however suggested taking up a study of the present habitat of the Asiatic Cheetah in Iran. Accordingly, a Committee was constituted, comprising of experts from CCMB, Wildlife Institute of India and Ahmedabad Zoo and Central Zoo Authority for visiting Iran and initiating a dialogue with the Iranian counter parts for conservation of the species in that country. The Ministry of External Affairs was requested to facilitate the visit of the Indian team to Iran.

The Ministry of External Affairs has received a communication from its Iranian counter part which states as "Research in this regard shows due to the fact that the Asian wildcat is an endangered species in Iran and that basic research has not been completed regarding the wildcat and to help safeguard the living habitat of the species any action that may distrub the habitat is forbidden. Therefore, this organisation does not agree to such cooperation at the moment and suggests that due to